

FLEET FOCUS

Burial at sea honors submarine veteran

USS Columbus Public Affairs

USS Columbus (SSN 762) recently held a burial at sea was conducted for Cmdr. (ret.) Roy L. Hoffmann.

Hoffmann's ashes were scattered at sea from the deck of Columbus during a ceremony conducted by the Commanding Officer, Cmdr. T.A. Fischer, and the Commander, Submarine Force Pacific Force Chaplain, Cmdr. R.A. Pusateri.

The ceremony was conducted about 3.5 miles south of Waikiki, with Diamond Head as a backdrop. Members of Hoffmann's family watched the ceremony from the chartered vessel SS Kono.

During the ceremony, the commanding officer read a brief history of Hoffmann's career that included service aboard submarines during World War II as a chief radioman, awarding of the Silver Star Medal, commissioning in 1948 and retirement after 30 years of service in 1967. The chaplain's sermon included a poem provided by Hoffmann's widow. The ceremony concluded with a rifle volley and the traditional play-



USS Columbus photo

USS Columbia recently held a burial at sea for retired Cmdr. Roy Hoffman, a World War II submarine veteran.

ing of taps.

Hoffmann was an enthusiastic supporter of the submarine force even following retirement, and was an ac-

tive member of the Submarine Veterans of World War II. He will be deeply missed by all now that he has joined others who are "still on patrol."

Paul Hamilton crew, families visit Kauai

By Ens. L.E. Ebinger

USS PAUL HAMILTON

Family and friends recently joined USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) Sailors for a week-end trip to Kauai.

The cruise began with the six-hour transit to an anchorage a mile off the coast. For entertainment, a number of activities were set up including a picnic on the flight deck, bingo, Paul Hamilton's famous scavenger hunt, and demonstrations of various equipment throughout the ship.

"I really enjoyed driving the ship from the bridge," said Jenny Richards, wife of 1st Lt. Matt Richards. "It was a lot of fun, and I understand how big a responsibility these guys bear."

Anchoring around mid-afternoon, things got a little rocky. The seas were too high to comfortably bring the water taxis alongside the anchored ship, so the crew got around the problem by using the ship's utility boats to shuttle the passengers ashore. "Flexibility is the name of the game. It was a lot easier waiting with our families and friends on the ship than if they were waiting for us back on shore," said Chief Petty Officer Steve Cantrill.

Once ashore, everyone took advantage of all that Kauai had to offer. "My friends and I had a chance to camp and hike along the edges of the Na Pali coast on Saturday, a first time event for all of us. Even though we had to wake up early to begin hiking and see the sunrise, it was well worth our efforts," noted Petty Officer 2nd Class Ryan Stewart.

"My girlfriend and I really enjoyed Waimea Canyon," said Petty Officer 1st Class Shawn Wright. "The view of the waterfalls from some spots was splendid."

Others used the trip as an excuse to enjoy the beaches and tropical waters. "Kealia Beach was beautiful, and very accessible," said Chief Petty Officer Kevin Robinson.

"I spent a lot of time on the beaches around Poipu on the southern coast," said Chief Petty Officer Kirk Kastler. "Unfortunately, it was because I was chasing errant golf balls."

With the seas still too rough for small boat operations, Paul Hamilton's duty sections swung into action to bring the 505-foot ship through a tight channel to a commercial berth to embark passengers for the trip home.

After a famous steel beach barbecue and special tours of the ship, guests relaxed to an all-day movie marathon while the ship returned to Pearl Harbor.

Hawaii submarines change command

□ Columbia, Pasadena, San Francisco, Honolulu welcome new skippers

By JOSN McClain Shewman

COMSUBPAC

USS Columbia (SSN 771), USS Pasadena (SSN 752) and USS San Francisco (SSN 711), all Pearl Harbor, Hawaii fast-attack submarines, conducted their change of command ceremonies throughout this past week. USS Honolulu (SSN 718) also changed command as the ship was in port while deployed to the Western Pacific.

The change of command for USS Pasadena on June 9 featured as guest speaker Vice Adm. Thomas Fargo, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Plans, Policy and Operations. Cmdr. Mark Ginda relieved Cmdr. Scott Van Buskirk as commanding officer of the ship.

"The submarine force will play a major role in preparing the battlespace of the future, carry the lion's share of the anti-surface warfare responsibilities, as well as expand its ability to strike targets ashore. It will remain in high demand because we continue to innovate and can survive in the very toughest operational environments," said Fargo, who is slated to assume duties here as

Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet. "They are the custodians of peace and their mission is so very important to our national defense. Pasadena has done her mission exceptionally well."

"I feel like the luckiest guy on the waterfront because my crew has tremendous morale, high standards and they're the best I've seen in my career," said Ginda. "I'm an awful proud skipper." Ginda reported to Pasadena from duty at Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

Rear Adm. Al Konetzni, Jr., Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet was the guest speaker for the Columbia change of command ceremony on June 8, where Cmdr. Bill Drake relieved Cmdr. Joe Rogers as commanding officer.

"Cmdr. Joe Rogers and the crew of Columbia ultimately made an impact on the thinking of key national leadership concerning submarines' value to the national defense strategy," said Konetzni. "USS Columbia has been ready to execute when their country asked."

San Francisco's change of command ceremony was held June 11, with Rear Adm. Jonathan Greenert, U.S. Pacific Command representative and Commander, Naval Base, Guam, as the guest speaker. Capt. (sel) Glen Niederhauser was replaced as commanding officer by Cmdr. David Kern.

"When I was in command of USS Honolulu and Glen was the executive officer, he was the best XO a skipper could ever hope for," said Greenert. "The success of every crew is based on the ability of that crew to work together as a team. Successful teams do not just happen. They must be nurtured and developed through good leadership. It's Glen's ability to develop the leadership potential in his crew and his officers that is most noteworthy about his

Key West, Shipyard hold combined awards ceremony

USS Key West Public Affairs

USS Key West (SSN 722) marked the end of the initial two months of her depot modernization period with a combined awards ceremony.

The ceremony included Key West crewmembers, family, and Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility project personnel in attendance.

Capt. Fred Dohse, Commander, Submarine Squadron Three, praised the Shipyard and the Key West team for their success in achieving each milestone to date ahead of schedule. Dohse presented the 1998 Medical "M" to the boat for the best medical department in the squadron. Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (SS/SW) F. C. Patterson received the award on behalf of the ship.

Additionally, Dohse awarded Electrician's Mate 3rd Class (SS) Patrick Donawho his silver dolphins signifying his completion of the submarine qualification process.

During the ceremony, Greg Ng, Key West project superintendent, presented Robert Castro a service pin for 35 years of federal service. Castro, assigned to the Key West project from Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, received his pin from his nephew, Lt. Roland Castro, Key West's navigation officer.

Cmdr. W. H. Hilarides, Key West's commanding officer praised the crew and the project team for outstanding coordination and cooperation. He also challenged the team to maintain the outstanding level of teamwork and integrity for the remainder of the project.



JOSN McClain Shewman photo

USS Columbia (SSN 771) Sailors stand in formation during the boat's recent Change of Command ceremony.

tour."

Niederhauser attributed his success to a well-trained and outstanding crew. "As I began several weeks ago gathering my thoughts for [the ceremony], a recurring question came to mind. How does an ordinary guy, from the heart of America, with no unique or special skills end up in command of a billion dollar submarine? The answer is simple - 20 years of great Sailors, chiefs and officers."

"They're a crew who is confident, smart and very good at what they do," added Niederhauser.

Capt. (sel.) Cecil Haney was relieved by Cmdr. John Richardson as commanding officer of Honolulu in a ceremony held in Japan on June 10.

Easyriders hold change of command

By Lt. Doug Edge

HSL-37



Cmdr. Patrick Smith



Cmdr. William Cameron



Cmdr. Matthew Dolan

Cmdr. William H. Cameron relieved Cmdr. Patrick D. Smith as Commanding Officer Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (Light) 37 (HSL-37) during a Change of Command ceremony on June 10 at the squadron's hanger at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

Capt. Thomas A. Vecchiolla had the distinct honor of being the squadron's final change of command guest speaker this century.

During Smith's tenure, his guidance led to the squadron's third consecutive "Top Torpedo" award and "outstanding" scores on each command inspection. In 1998, an HSL-37 aircrew became the first to fire AGM-114B Hellfire missiles against a high-speed maneuvering target boat. As the only LAMPSS squadron in the Middle Pacific region, HSL-37 provides a variety of helicopter services to Hawaii-based ships including Combat System Sea Qualification Trials (CSSQT), undersea warfare weapons qualifications, and training shipboard Landing Signal Enlisted (LSE) and Helicopter Control Officer (HCO) personnel. In recognition of his exceptional leadership and accomplishments, Smith received the Meritorious Service Medal during the ceremony.

Cameron, a native of Sullivan's Island, South

Carolina, is HSL-37's 20th commanding officer. He received his Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He was commissioned through the Aviation Reserve Officer Candidate program in September 1982. Designated a Naval Aviator in January 1984, Cameron reported to HSL-33 at NAS North Island flying the SH-2F. Deploying twice to the Western Pacific, he served as detachment administrative officer and maintenance officer in USS Kirk (FF 1087) and USS Oldendorf (DD 972). In August 1987, Cameron transferred to HSL-41 for duty as a fleet replacement instructor pilot in the SH-60B. He served as flight schedules officer and assistant training officer to Commander, Anti-Submarine Warfare Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

In September 1990, Cameron reported to the Joint Staff, Directorate for Strategic Plans and Policy (J-5), Political-Military Affairs, Asia/Pacific Division. He left Washington, D.C. in October 1991, and was reassigned to Commander, Training Command, U.S. Pacific Fleet as Naval aide. In March 1993 Cameron reported to HSL-43 at NAS North Island. He deployed to the Yellow Sea and Sea of Japan with the USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) Battle Group as the Detachment Officer-in-Charge in the USS Cowpens (CG 63). He subsequently served as the squadron maintenance officer.

Cameron received orders to the Naval War College in March 1996 as a student in the College of Naval Command and Staff. While attached to the Naval War College he also served as an associate fellow on the Chief of Naval Operations Strategic Studies Group. Cameron assumed duties as executive officer of the "Easyriders" in March 1998.

He holds a Master of Arts degree in International Relations from the University of San Diego and a Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College. His personal awards include the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal (three awards), and the Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Cameron is married to the former Elizabeth Anne Berryhill of Charlotte, North Carolina. They have two daughters, Rachel and Anna.

The Easyriders' new executive officer is Cmdr. Matthew H. Dolan, a native of Cranston, Rhode

Island. Dolan received his commission through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps program at the University of Notre Dame in 1983.

Dolan received his Wings of Gold in May 1985 and was first assigned to Training Squadron Two (VT-2) as a Selectively Retained Graduate (SER-GRAD), where he instructed all phases of primary instruction and flew over 500 instructional flights.

In April 1987, he reported to HSL-41 for initial SH-60B Seahawk training. He was then assigned to the HSL-43 "Battle Cats." While at HSL-43, Dolan completed deployments on USS Gary (FFG 31) during Operation Praying Mantis, USS Reuben James (FFG 57) during PACEX 89, and USS Mobile Bay (CG 53) as officer-in-charge during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. In June 1991, Dolan reported to the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif., where he earned a Master of Science degree in Operations Research.

Dolan returned to HSL-41 for SH-60B refresher training in November 1993 and four months later reported to the "Warlords" of HSL-51 in Atsugi, Japan. He deployed aboard USS Hewitt (DD 966) as officer-in-charge, and served as Warlord maintenance officer from January 1995 until January 1996. Dolan has more than 3,500 total flight hours and more than 2,500 hours in the SH-60B Seahawk.

In January 1996, Dolan reported to the Bureau of Naval Personnel in Washington, D.C. to assume duties as placement officer for the HS and HSL communities. One year later he assumed the duties as assistant aviation captain detailee. Dolan was selected for the Legislative Fellows program and served as Defense Fellow for Senator Joseph I. Lieberman (D-Conn.) from January to December 1998.

His personal decorations include the Air Medal (one Gold Star, one Combat "V", one Strike/Flight), Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal (three awards one Combat "V"), the Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal and various campaign and service ribbons.

He is married to the former Claire Lynn Weiland of Pensacola, Florida. The Dolans reside in Kailua, Hawaii with their three children, Matthew, Erin, and Abigail.